



## LEGISLATURE STUDIES WAYS TO HELP REDUCE BIRTH DEFECTS

Eight thousand babies die annually in the U.S. as a result of birth defects, making the problem the leading cause of death for infants. Another 150,000 are born each year with severe birth defects. More than 4,500 birth defects have been identified.

Last year, the federal government passed the Children's Health Act of 2000. Several provisions affect birth defect awareness. First, the Act creates the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Act also authorizes grants to states to improve and

expand newborn screening programs.

Likewise, the law expands the CDC's folic acid education and awareness campaign. The U.S. Public Health Service recommends that all women of child-bearing age consume folic acid daily to reduce their risk of having a pregnancy affected with spina bifida or other neural tube defects.

In addition to federal government activity, the Indiana Health Finance Commission this fall will discuss birth defects topics including the monitoring and identification of birth defects as well as an examination of methods to reduce the number of affected children.

## TELEMARKETING LAW WILL STOP UNWANTED CALLS

Hoosiers fed up with the constant barrage of calls from telephone solicitors can now have their names placed on the Attorney General's "Do Not Call" list thanks to legislation recently passed by the General Assembly. The bill was drafted by Senator Long in a bi-partisan effort with Rep. Dale Sturtz (D-LaGrange).

Indiana residents have until December 31 to place their names on the registry. After January 1, telemarketers will no longer be permitted to call names listed on the registry.

**To have your name placed on the "Do Not Call" list, call 1-888-834-9969 or register online at [www.ai.org](http://www.ai.org).**

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# SEN. DAVID LONG

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# Legislative Update



STATE  
SENATOR  
DAVID LONG

INDIANA  
STATEHOUSE  
200 W. WASHINGTON  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
46204

1-800-382-9467

[S16@ai.org](mailto:S16@ai.org)



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**Proud to be  
an American**



# SENATOR LONG HELPS PASS NEW LAW TO IMPROVE INDIANA’S ABILITY TO COMBAT TERRORISM

On the morning of September 11, 2001, America’s innocence was shattered. We now live in a new America, which understands that the unbelievable can occur; but also an America which has sworn that those behind these cowardly acts will be hunted down and brought to justice.

Within this new America, government officials must create new policies to combat terrorism so this devastation and heartache will not be repeated.

Precautionary plans and measures must be implemented so that federal, state and local entities may take preemptive action to help prevent future terrorist attacks. Although our innocence may never be fully restored, we can take comfort in our government’s ability to protect our safety through these preparedness activities.

Earlier this summer, special legislation was signed into law to help our state combat terrorism. Senate Bill 180 (now Public Law 156-2001), which I strongly supported, is an anti-terrorism measure intended to improve Indiana’s preparedness for acts of terrorism involving biological or chemical weapons. It requires the state Emergency Medical Services commission to provide training and certification standards to EMS personnel

statewide for the use (administration) of antidotes, vaccines and antibiotics in situations related to a terrorist or military attack.

Under the new law, the state Department of Health will monitor dangerous communicable diseases and unnatural outbreaks of diseases known or suspected to be used as weapons. After receiving



**Firemen raise the American flag at the site of the worst act of terrorism on U.S. soil where the World Trade Center once stood in New York City.**

ing a report of an unnatural disease outbreak, the Department of Health will notify the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the Indiana State Police and county health departments and

law enforcement officials in affected areas.

Further, the new law requires the Department of Health to develop the capability to immediately perform preliminary analysis and identification of unknown substances that have been or may be employed as weapons. Public Law 156, which took effect July 1, establishes legal definitions of “terrorism” and “weapon of mass destruction” and sets forth criminal penalties for committing terrorist acts. The law also creates a crime of “agricultural terrorism” and outlines criminal penalties for the use of weapons of mass destruction to damage, destroy, sicken or kill crops or livestock.

The law may need to be broadened to address other aspects of terrorism; however, Indiana is well ahead of many states in preparing a response to a potential biological or chemical attack.

Our prayers are with those families who have lost loved ones in these unprecedented terrorist attacks. Their faces will forever be etched into our memories. Yet we must not be afraid of what tomorrow may bring. Yes, we must be on our guard, but every Hoosier must combat terrorism in his or her own heart by continuing to live the American way: strong, proud united and free. Together, we will succeed and prevail over evil.

## LARGEST SHARE OF GAMBLING PROFITS GOES TO CUT "LICENSE PLATE TAX"

"Where does the lottery money go?" is a question I am asked often.

The state's share of profits from the Hoosier Lottery is combined with profits from river boat casinos, bingo and pari-mutuel horse racing into a single account known as the "Lottery and Gaming Surplus Account."

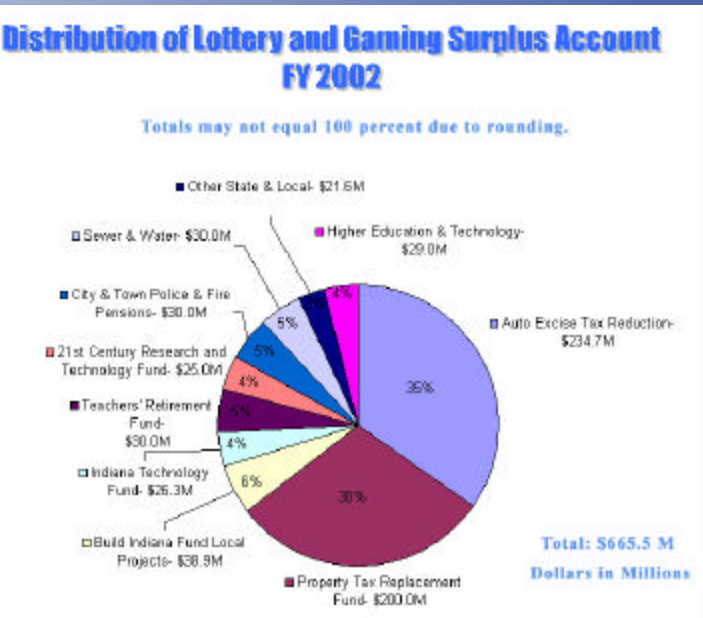
For the budget year which began July 1, expenditures from the state's share of profits are expected to total \$665.5 million. The largest share of the profits, \$235 million, will go to cut the "license plate tax," the excise tax Indiana motorists pay annually when renewing their vehicle license plates.

The second-largest recipients of gambling profits are Indiana homeowners. This year, \$200 million is dedicated to the Property Tax Replacement Fund to bridge a shortfall brought on by the national economic slowdown.

As the pie chart shows, some gambling profits are used to reduce pension obligations to teachers, local police officers and firefighters.

Funds also are set aside for computer enhancements in local schools and public libraries (the Indiana Technology Fund) and to support the development of hi-tech research (21st Century Research & Technology Fund).

Six percent of the profits goes to the Build Indiana Fund, which provides state funding for local projects ranging from firefighting and rescue equipment to street,



sidewalk and park improvements.

Since 1990, the Build Indiana Fund has provided \$387 million for local projects. All 92 counties have received a portion of the funds.

If not for the Build Indiana Fund, many needed local projects either would not get done or property taxes would have to be raised to finance them.

### CAUSE FOR CONCERN:

#### PERCENTAGE OF INDIANA 12TH GRADE STUDENTS REPORTING LIFETIME USE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUGS: 2001

- Alcohol: 78.6 %
- Amphetamines: 15.5%
- Cigarettes: 62.9%
- Cigars: 46.7%
- Cocaine: 9.0%
- Marijuana: 45.5 %
- Narcotics: 14.7%
- Smokeless Tobacco: 22.9%
- Tranquilizers: 16.5%

Statistics compiled by the Indiana Prevention Resource Center

## NEW CURFEW LAW TAKES EFFECT

Earlier this summer, a new curfew law went into effect to provide greater protection for Hoosier youth. After a federal court deemed a similar state curfew statute unconstitutional, State Senator David Ford authored an amended curfew bill which recognizes teens' constitutional rights while protecting their safety after hours. The final version of the bill passed the House 87-0, the Senate 47-0 and was signed by the Governor.

Like the old state law, the new legislation makes it illegal for youths younger than 15 to be out in public without their parents or guardian after 11 p.m. or before 5 a.m. on any day of the week.

The law for 15, 16, and 17 year-olds differs only on weekends when they are barred from being out between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.

Several new exceptions have been added to the legislation to guarantee both parents' and students' rights including parental approval, educational or religious programs, jobs, emergencies, volunteering for not-for-profits and certain interstate travel. The legislation also makes defenses available to a child who is cited for a curfew violation, including those activities protected by federal or state law, such as conduct involving the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech and the right of assembly.